The Year 2003 in Pictures
SYSTEMS IN PLACE

NASA installed this special ventilation system in the Containment Vessel for use during segmentation activities.

The start of segmentation activities was a major step forward for the Decommissioning Project. But before this work could begin, NASA had to take a number of steps, including installing a number of systems. Early in the spring of 2003, NASA installed a Cask Transfer System to efficiently and safely remove packaged waste from the inside of the Reactor Facility. NASA also installed a special ventilation system for use in an enclosed area of the reactor building adjacent to the reactor vessel. The system "turns over" the air in the enclosure every 30 minutes and its HEPA (High Efficiency Portable Air) filters are 99.97% effective. The enclosure is being kept at negative air pressure, to minimize any outward escape of dust from segmentation.

A crane lowers a cask onto a cart, part of the Cask Transfer System, so it can be moved into the Reactor Facility for packaging waste.

A new, temporary electric system was also installed in the Reactor Facility, providing improved lighting and safety for decommissioning workers. In August, NASA began work on a Canal Transfer System, similar to the Cask Transfer System and designed to move highly activated components from Hot Dry Storage to the Containment Vessel, where workers will transfer the components into a shipping cask.